Hike in import duty on PTA

@*96. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1985 and 1986, every hike in import duty on PTA was accompanied by increase in the prices of DMT;

(b) if so, to what extent such a hike in DMT prices was justified; and

(c) what action Government have taken to contain DMT prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The increase in import duty on PTA and DMT in September 1985 was followed by an increase in selling price of indigenous DMT. The increase in import duty effected in April, 1986 as a consequence of fluctuations in international prices, did not lead to any increase in prices of DMT.

(b) The increased DMT price (by indigenous manufacturers after September 1985) is near about the fair selling price indicated in the BICP study.

(c) There is no price control over DMT. However, in the light of cost study of this industry undertaken by BICP, the manufacturers have been advised to maintain their selling price around Rs. 21,000 per tonne.

Vacancies of Judges in Karnataka High Court

*97. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the vacancies of Judges in Karnataka High Court have since been filled up;

(b) if so, what are the details, thereof; and

(c) whether State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government in this respect and if so, what is the reaction of Government in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) to (c) There are at present 4 vacancies of Judges in Karnataka High Court. The Government of Karnataka had, in consultation with the former Chief Justice of the State High Court and the Governor sent recommendations for appointments to these vacancies. These recommendations have been referred to the Chief Justice of India for his views. The Chief Justice of India has not yet sent his views.

Voting rights to Indian citizens living abroad

*98. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of granting voting rights to the Indian citizens living abroad has been under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, for how long this matter has been pending and reasons thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) The question whether voting rights may be extended to Indian citizens residing abroad was under consideration of Government and a decision has since been taken.

(b) The suggestion was made in some letters received in 1981 from some individuals and overseas associations. Some more letters came from time to time and a major policy review was taken up in 1985 and it became necessary to consult other concerned Ministries like Finance, Home and External Affairs.

@Previously Starred Question 16, transferred from the 4th November, 1986.